

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCI-06 NASA-04 SSO-00 PM-07 NSC-10

SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 DODE-00 H-03 DRC-01 /087 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5769

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1553

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, MA, US

SUBJ: NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 221848

1. RE PARA 9, RAMANANTSOA GOVT HAS REGULARLY TAKEN STEPS TO ATTEMPT DEMONSTRATE THAT TSIRANANA REGIME DID NOT PROTECT MALAGASY NATIONAL INTERESTS WHEREAS IT IS DOING SO. DURING RENEGOTIATIONS EARLY THIS YEAR FRANCO-MALAGASY COOPERATION AGREEMENTS, PRESENT GOMR REPRESENTATIVES HELD THAT PREDECESSORS HAD IN 1960 GIVEN AWAY RIGHTS TO FRENCH WHICH SOVEREIGN NATION SHOULD HAVE RETAINED. THIS POSITION GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY WITHIN MADAGASCAR. RAMANANTSOA GOVT UNDOUBTEDLY BELIEVES THIS EARNESTLY, BUT ITS GOAL IS ALSO TO DISCREDIT FORMER REGIME SO THOROUGHLY THAT POPULACE WILL TOTALLY REJECT OLD-TIME POLITICIANS WHO STILL REPRESENT POLITICAL FORCE WITHIN COUNTRY.

2. AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE AND AS DEPT AWARE, THERE IS BODY OF OPINION HOLDING THAT MAIN REASON PRESENT GOVT IS PROSECUTING AGM CASE IS TO EMBARRASS FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT AND ACTIVE USM LEADER RESAMPA THOROUGHLY. GOVT SEES HIM AS MAJOR POPULAR ALTERNATIVE AND, THEREFORE, THREAT TO ITS OWN EXISTENCE.

3. REPUDIATION OF ORAL AGREEMENTS CONCERNING NASA USE OF LAND COULD VERY WELL BE, THEREFORE, ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT
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FORMER GOVT FOR NOT PROTECTING MALAGASY INTERESTS SUFFICIENTLY.

4. RE PARA 1 REFTTEL, PERHAPS TEXT RECEIVED INCOMPLETE, BUT DO NOT UNDERSTAND AS NOW READS, I.E. "IF CLAUSE 2(B)". AS SEPARATE SENTENCE BETWEEN "...SIGNED IN 1963." AND "EXPLAINING THE USG POSITION, COHEN..." AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, CLAUSE 2(B) REFERS ONLY TO RENTAL COSTS FOR RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND NOT TO LAND PUT AT DISPOSITION NASA TRACKIN STATION. LATTER WOULD SEEM TO BE COVERED IN CLAUSE 2(A).
MENDENHALL

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Message Attributes

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